AMENDMENTS

In the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, lines 12-20 as follows:

B1

There have been increasing demands to make the image that synthesizes a signature to an electronic document and to obtain the print output ~~for examining the correctness of a personal seal or signature (referred to as simply signature hereinafter) used for authorizing the electronic documents transferred in the computer system network system and the print thereof~~. ~~The~~ A computer system using a network can be used as an open-ended and reliable system if the signature image data can be used in the computer system network system for authorizing the electronic document. ~~such as a contract with a sufficient reliability.~~

Please add a new paragraph after page 1, line 20 as follows:

There is a prior art describing a signature image data unit and document data unit in a closed computer system, not used independently in network, and there is a problem in examining the correctness of a personal seal or signature (referred to as simply signature hereinafter).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 21 as follows:

For instance, Patent Publication JP-A-6-119363 describes such a document management system. The described system includes a document data storage unit for storing created electronic documents, a signature image data storage unit for storing the signature image data in association with the signer ID number, (two units being integrated in a same computer system), a protective attribute generator for attaching a protective attribute for protecting the documents stored in the document data storage unit by prohibiting the change of the documents, an attest information generator for attaching attest information including signer ID number to the electronic document stored in the document data storage unit in

response to the operation by the operator to thereby allow the protective attribute generator to attach the protective attribute to the electronic document, and a signal processor for reading, based on the signer ID number, the electronic document stored in the document data storage unit and attached with the attest information and the protective attribute to synthesize the image data stored in the signature image data storage unit corresponding to the signer ID number onto the electronic document and output the same to an output unit. In the output, document data and the signature image are printed, the signer ID number is not printed.

B1

Please amend the paragraph beginning at Page 3, line 4 as follows:

In the described system, however there is a problem in that it is difficult in fact to judge the correctness of the signature image due to the ambiguity of the printed data of the signature image due to the lack of the sharpness of the printed matter and the signature image data storage unit is not independent of document data storage unit computer system, so it is difficult for the plural signers to access to the plural signature image data systems in computer network independently and register signature images after the signer's secured approval, and attach those signature image data to the same document data individually.

B2

At Page 3, after line 10, please insert the following paragraphs:

There have been increasing demands for examining the correctness of a personal seal or signature (referred to as simply signature hereinafter) used for authorizing the electronic documents transferred in the computer system network system and the printing thereof. A computer system using a network can be used as an open-ended and reliable system if the signature image data can be used in the computer system network system for authorizing the electronic document such as a contract with a sufficient reliability.

B3

In view of the above, it is an object of the present invention to provide an open-ended and reliable document management system which is capable of judging the correctness of the

B3

printed or displayed signature data with ease and a reliable manner by storing the signature data and the electronic document in separate units while also storing the relationship therebetween.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at Page 11, line 2 as follows:

In operation, as shown in Fig. 3, after an electronic document is created by the first signer using the computer system 10 in step S1, the computer system 10 requests the document data storage system 20 to deliver a document number in step S2 for the new document. The computer system 10, after receiving the document number, delivers the electronic document including ~~signature images~~ signer ID numbers of the first and second signers, together with own ~~attest~~ approval data as well as the document number, to the document data storage system 20, which stores the same in the form as it is received as a primary document data in step S3.

B4

Please amend the paragraph beginning at Page 11, line 13 as follows:

The document data storage system 20 then receives approval by the second signer using the computer system 50 through the network 60 as to the requisition of the ~~attest~~ approval data by the document storage system 20 in step S4 while informing the document number. Upon receipt of the approval, the document data storage system 20 requests in step S5 the attest data storage systems 30 and 40 to deliver the attest data stored therein.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at Page 12, line 6 as follows:

B5

The document data storage system 20 receives the attest data including the signature image data and the signer ID number in Step S6, and stores the received attest data in association with the ID numbers of the attest data storage system 30 and 40 together with the barcodes thereof in the respective fields of the electronic document data 70, thereby completing the electronic document data. The document data storage system 20 stores the completed document data in step S7 and delivers the same to the signer's computer systems 10 and 50. The signer's computer systems 10 and 50 receive the electronic document data, stores the same, and prints the same in step S8 in the form shown in Fig. 2.